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REMARKS

Further to Applicants' fully responsive Amendment timely filed via certificate of mail on December 12, 2003, Applicants have added new dependent Claims 22 and 23. Therefore Claims 2-6 and 10-23 are pending. Support for new Claims 22 and 23 can be found in the original specification at least at page 5, lines 4-7 and FIG. 1, which shows directional tap 105 and grating 103 in a single package. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 12 to change "tilted grating tap" to --Bragg grating--. Support for this amendment can be found in the original specification at least at page 5 lines 12-19.

The foregoing amendments and remarks are not believed to affect the response filed on December 12, 2003, and Applicants respectfully submit that this application remains in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (973) 597-2500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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